

(A)(1) The loan period is not more than one semester, one trimester, one quarter, or, for non term-based schools or schools with non-standard terms, 4 months; and

(2) The school has a cohort default rate, calculated under subpart M of 34 CFR part 668 of less than 10 percent for each of the three most recent fiscal years for which data are available;

(B) The school is an eligible home institution originating a loan to cover the cost of attendance in a study abroad program and has a cohort default rate, calculated under subpart M of 34 part 668, of less than 5 percent for the single most recent fiscal year for which data are available; or

(C) The school is not in a State.

(ii) Paragraph (b)(8)(i)(A) of this section does not apply to any loans originated by the school beginning—

(A) 30 days after the date the school receives notification from the Secretary of a cohort default rate, calculated under subpart M of 34 CFR part 668, that causes the school to no longer meet the qualifications outlined in that paragraph; or

(B) October 1, 2002.

(iii) Paragraph (b)(8)(i)(B) of this section does not apply to any loans originated by the school beginning 30 days after the date the school receives notification from the Secretary of a cohort default rate, calculated under subpart M of 34 CFR part 668, that causes the school to no longer meet the qualifications outlined in that paragraph.

(c) *Promissory note handling.* (1) The Secretary provides promissory notes for use in the Direct Loan Program. A school may not modify, or make any additions to, the promissory note without the Secretary's prior written approval.

(2) A school that originates a loan must ensure that the loan is supported by a completed promissory note as proof of the borrower's indebtedness.

(d) *Reporting to the Secretary.* (1) A school that participates under school origination option 2 must submit the promissory note, loan origination record, and initial disbursement record for a loan to the Secretary no later than 30 days following the date of the initial disbursement. The school must submit subsequent disbursement

records, including adjustment and cancellation records, to the Secretary no later than 30 days following the date the disbursement, adjustment, or cancellation is made.

(2) A school that participates under school origination option 1 or standard origination must submit the initial disbursement record for a loan to the Secretary no later than 30 days following the date of the initial disbursement. The school must submit subsequent disbursement records, including adjustment and cancellation records, to the Secretary no later than 30 days following the date the disbursement, adjustment, or cancellation is made.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 1845-0021)

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1087a *et seq.*)

[59 FR 61690, Dec. 1, 1994, as amended at 60 FR 33345, June 28, 1995; 60 FR 61794, Dec. 1, 1995; 61 FR 29900, June 12, 1996; 61 FR 31359, June 19, 1996; 61 FR 60610, Nov. 29, 1996; 62 FR 63435, Nov. 28, 1997; 64 FR 58970, Nov. 1, 1999; 65 FR 65622, 65651, Nov. 1, 2000; 66 FR 34765, June 29, 2001; 67 FR 67082, Nov. 1, 2002; 68 FR 75430, Dec. 31, 2003]

§ 685.302 [Reserved]

§ 685.303 Processing loan proceeds.

(a) *Purpose.* This section establishes rules governing a school's processing of a borrower's Direct Subsidized, Direct Unsubsidized, or Direct PLUS Loan proceeds. The school shall also comply with any rules for processing loan proceeds contained in 34 CFR part 668.

(b) *General—(1)(i) A school that initiates the drawdown of funds.* A school may not disburse loan proceeds to a borrower unless the school has obtained an executed, legally enforceable promissory note from the borrower.

(ii) *A school that does not initiate the drawdown of funds.* A school may disburse loan proceeds only to a borrower for whom the school has received funds from the Secretary.

(2)(i) Except in the case of a late disbursement under paragraph (d) of this section, or as provided in paragraph (b)(2)(iii) of this section, a school may disburse loan proceeds only to a student, or a parent in the case of a PLUS

Loan, if the school determines the student has continuously maintained eligibility in accordance with the provisions of § 685.200 from the beginning of the loan period for which the loan was intended.

(ii) If, in the event a student delays attending school for a period of time, the school may consider that student to have maintained eligibility for the loan from the first day of the period of enrollment. However, the school must comply with the requirements under paragraph (b)(3) of this section.

(iii) If, after a school makes the first disbursement to a borrower, the student becomes ineligible due solely to the school's loss of eligibility to participate in the title IV programs or the Direct Loan Program, the school may make subsequent disbursements to the borrower as permitted by 34 CFR part 668.

(iv) If, prior to making any disbursement to a borrower, the student temporarily ceases to be enrolled on at least a half-time basis, the school may make a disbursement and any subsequent disbursement to the student if the school determines and documents in the student's file—

(A) That the student has resumed enrollment on at least a half-time basis;

(B) The student's revised cost of attendance; and

(C) That the student continues to qualify for the entire amount of the loan, notwithstanding any reduction in the student's cost of attendance caused by the student's temporary cessation of enrollment on at least a half-time basis.

(3) If a registered student withdraws or is expelled prior to the first day of classes of the period of enrollment for which the loan is made, or fails to attend school during that period, or if the school is unable for any other reason to document that the student attended school during that period, the school shall notify the Secretary, within 30 days of the date described in § 685.305(a), of the student's withdrawal, expulsion, or failure to attend school, as applicable, and return to the Secretary—

(i) Any loan proceeds credited by the school to the student's account; and

(ii) The amount of payments made by the student to the school, to the extent that they do not exceed the amount of any loan proceeds disbursed by the school to the student.

(4)(i) If a student is enrolled in the first year of an undergraduate program of study and has not previously received a Federal Stafford, Federal Supplemental Loans for Students, Direct Subsidized, or Direct Unsubsidized Loan, a school may not disburse the proceeds of a Direct Subsidized or Direct Unsubsidized Loan until 30 days after the first day of the student's program of study unless—

(A) The school has a cohort default rate, calculated under subpart M of 34 CFR part 668, or weighted average cohort rate of less than 10 percent for each of the three most recent fiscal years for which data are available;

(B) The school is an eligible home institution originating a loan to cover the cost of attendance in a study abroad program and has a Direct Loan Program cohort rate, FFEL cohort default rate, or weighted average cohort rate of less than 5 percent for the single most recent fiscal year for which data are available; or

(C) The school is not in a State.

(ii) Paragraph (b)(4)(i)(A) of this section does not apply to any loans originated by the school beginning—

(A) 30 days after the date the school receives notification from the Secretary of a cohort default rate, calculated under subpart M of 34 CFR part 668, that causes the school to no longer meet the qualifications outlined in that paragraph; or

(B) October 1, 2002.

(iii) Paragraph (b)(4)(i)(B) of this section does not apply to any loans originated by the school beginning 30 days after the date the school receives notification from the Secretary of a cohort default rate, calculated under Subpart M of 34 CFR part 668, that causes the school to no longer meet the qualifications outlined in that paragraph.

(c) *Processing of the proceeds of a Direct Loan.* Schools shall follow the procedures for disbursing funds in 34 CFR 668.164.

(d) *Late Disbursement.* A school may make a late disbursement according to

the provisions found under 34 CFR 668.164(g).

(e) *Treatment of excess loan proceeds.* Before the disbursement of any Direct Subsidized or Direct Unsubsidized Loan proceeds, if a school learns that the borrower will receive or has received financial aid for the period of enrollment for which the loan was intended that exceeds the amount of assistance for which the student is eligible (except for Federal Work-Study Program funds up to \$300), the school shall reduce or eliminate the overaward by either—

(1) Using the student's Direct Unsubsidized, Direct PLUS, or State-sponsored or another non-Federal loan to cover the expected family contribution, if not already done; or

(2) Reducing one or more subsequent disbursements to eliminate the overaward.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 1840-0672)

[59 FR 61690, Dec. 1, 1994, as amended at 60 FR 33345, June 28, 1995; 61 FR 29901, June 12, 1996; 61 FR 60610, Nov. 29, 1996; 64 FR 58971, Nov. 1, 1999; 65 FR 65651, Nov. 1, 2000; 66 FR 34766, June 29, 2001; 68 FR 75430, Dec. 31, 2003]

§ 685.304 Counseling borrowers.

(a) *Initial counseling.* (1) Except as provided in paragraph (a)(4) of this section, a school must ensure that initial counseling is conducted with each Direct Subsidized Loan or Direct Unsubsidized Loan student borrower prior to making the first disbursement of the proceeds of a loan to a student borrower unless the student borrower has received a prior Direct Subsidized, Direct Unsubsidized, Federal Stafford, or Federal SLS Loan.

(2) The initial counseling must be in person, by audiovisual presentation, or by interactive electronic means. In each case, the school must ensure that an individual with expertise in the title IV programs is reasonably available shortly after the counseling to answer the student borrower's questions. As an alternative, in the case of a student borrower enrolled in a correspondence program or a study-abroad program approved for credit at the home institution, the student borrower may be provided with written counseling materials before the loan proceeds are disbursed.

(3) The initial counseling must—

(i) Explain the use of a Master Promissory Note (MPN);

(ii) Emphasize to the borrower the seriousness and importance of the repayment obligation the student borrower is assuming;

(iii) Describe the likely consequences of default, including adverse credit reports, garnishment of wages, Federal offset, and litigation;

(iv) Inform the student borrower of sample monthly repayment amounts based on a range of student levels of indebtedness or on the average indebtedness of Direct Subsidized Loan and Direct Unsubsidized Loan borrowers at the same school or in the same program of study at the same school; and

(v) Emphasize that the student borrower is obligated to repay the full amount of the loan even if the student borrower does not complete the program, is unable to obtain employment upon completion, or is otherwise dissatisfied with or does not receive the educational or other services that the student borrower purchased from the school.

(4) A school may adopt an alternative approach for initial counseling as part of the school's quality assurance plan described in § 685.300(b)(9). If a school adopts an alternative approach, it is not required to meet the requirements of paragraphs (a)(1)–(3) of this section unless the Secretary determines that the alternative approach is not adequate for the school. The alternative approach must—

(i) Ensure that each student borrower subject to initial counseling under paragraph (a)(1) of this section is provided written counseling materials that contain the information described in paragraph (a)(3) of this section;

(ii) Be designed to target those student borrowers who are most likely to default on their repayment obligations and provide them more intensive counseling and support services; and

(iii) Include performance measures that demonstrate the effectiveness of the school's alternative approach. These performance measures must include objective outcomes, such as levels of borrowing, default rates, and withdrawal rates.